

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



<p>Name of project: Advocacy Groups Network</p>	
<p>Project Lead: Sarah Pickard</p>	
<p>Sub Group overseeing project: Chairs Planning</p>	
<p>Project Targets from original bid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-40 people taking part in 3-4 Speak Out advocacy groups. • 100 advocacy actions by network groups to give views to sub groups, service mangers and other public representatives. • 6 Big Meeting representing over 130 people. • Co-chair elections as needed • 6 to 8 service user groups supported to take part in Big Meetings • Big Meeting to give views to Partnership Board and/or sub groups in film or report. • 3 Network News produced by Network participants each year. • People with complex needs represented at Big Meeting. 	

How the project will do this work:

- **3 advocacy groups:** supported regular sessions. A 4th group will (hopefully) be paid for by another funder.
- **Consultation:** Groups give views on plans for changes to learning disability services.
- **6 Big Meeting each year** (130 people represented): reps from all the groups plus 7 services user group take part.

- **Feedback for each Partnership Board:** film or report after each Big Meeting telling Partnership Board what everyone thinks.



- **Election of Partnership Board co-chair:** helping candidates understand the job, and prepare an election presentation.



- **Network News:** Support people from the Groups Network to produce 3 each year.



- **Make sure everyone is included:** People with complex needs, autism, and from different cultures.



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How much 2009/10 LDDF money the project gets: £39,000	
Name of person completing this report: Sarah Pickard	

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What the project has done in April through July 2009:

30 people have taken part in advocacy groups.

Tuesday and Loud and Clear Groups have worked on a variety of issues such as healthy eating, saying 'no' to people and the difficulty of making complaints. Groups have used a variety of techniques including Forum Theatre, writing and film to explore issues. Other issues include exploring better ways to make form filling more accessible. Findings will be fed into councils 'Communication Forum' in September.

Wednesday Group has offered advice on job description for Travel Buddy coordinator, spoken to Community Safety Officer about safety issues, and had a number of contacts with the Theatre Royal to give advice about issues for people with learning disabilities. They also made a film about their feedback. Other work includes visiting a day service to find out more about people with complex needs and making a poster to advertise their group.

All groups have sent reps to the Big Meeting and contributed to articles in Network News.

Work continues in supporting people who brought up issues about lack of choice and how to complain.

Total number of group actions = 38

2 Big Meetings.

Reps from different 11 groups have attended. Issues include relationships, how to make complaints and finding out more about the Partnership Board. Films made and shown at the Partnership Board.



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Network News

2 Network News produced. Voices of a wider group of people now represented in addition to individual and group articles from Speak Out advocacy groups. Groups outside Speak Out increasingly writing more articles. Groups who have contributed include Care Coops, Avondale, Blue Camel Steering Committee and Albany View. The Words are not Enough article featured work from people with complex needs.

